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Schedule A
Response of October 18, 2005

Response to Examiner's Office Action of June 28, 2005. Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A tubular bat, having an overall bat length, for hitting a ball, the bat comprising:

- a) a core shaft having a core shaft length, including a handle portion for gripping the bat;
- b) a cylindrical barrel having a proximal portion and a distal portion with respect to the handle portion and having a constant diameter between said proximal and distal portions, the barrel ~~for~~ being connected to the core shaft;
- c) a first connecting structure for connecting the proximal portion of the barrel to the core shaft;
- d) a second connecting structure extending laterally from the core shaft for directly connecting the distal portion of the barrel to the core shaft;
- e) a separation gap disposed between the core shaft and the barrel; wherein
 - i) the barrel is for hitting the ball; ~~and~~
 - ii) the separation gap is for allowing the barrel to elastically deform when the barrel hits the ball[.], and
 - iii) the core shaft length extends substantially along the entire bat length and is of rigid, unitary, singular construction.

2. (Canceled) ~~A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~

- ~~a) the barrel further has a barrel length and a distal barrel end; and~~
- ~~b) the core shaft length extends along the barrel length substantially to the distal barrel end.~~

3. (Currently amended) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first connecting structure and the second connecting structure respectively are elastically resilient flexible structures.
4. (Currently amended) A bat as claimed in claim ~~[1]~~ 3, wherein the first and second connecting structures each comprises a pleated shape ~~selected from being circular, conical, pleated and toroidal.~~
5. (Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- ~~—— a) the barrel further has a proximal folded portion and a distal folded portion;~~
 - ~~—— b) the first connecting structure includes the proximal folded portion; and~~
 - ~~—— c) the second connecting structure includes the distal folded portion.~~
6. (Original) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core shaft cross-section comprises a substantially circular cross-section of substantially constant diameter along the core shaft length.
7. (Withdrawn) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle portion cross-section comprises a substantially ovoid cross-section.
8. (Withdrawn) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle portion cross-section comprises a substantially elliptical cross-section.
9. (Withdrawn) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle portion cross-section comprises a substantially triangular shape.
10. (Currently amended) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core shaft further includes a proximal shaft end beginning the handle portion and a distal end to the handle portion positioned intermediate the shaft end and the proximal end of the barrel, the handle portion being disposed between the proximal shaft end and the proximal end of the barrel, the bat further comprising a tapered section disposed between the distal end of the handle portion and the proximal end of the barrel.
11. (Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 10 comprised of separate barrel, taper, and shaft components.

12. ~~(Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 10, wherein the tapered section is an integral part of the barrel.~~

13. ~~(Canceled) A bat as claim 10, wherein the tapered section has a circular cross-section.~~

14. (Withdrawn) A bat as claimed in claim 10 wherein the tapered section has a non-circular cross-section.

15. (Withdrawn) A bat as claimed in claim 14, wherein the tapered section non-circular cross-section is star shaped.

16. (Original) A bat as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second connecting structure serves as an end cap.

17. (Currently amended) A bat as claimed in claim 1 wherein the barrel has a distal barrel end, further comprising an end cap disposed at the distal barrel end **and wherein the core shaft extends to and connects with the end cap.**

18. ~~(Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 1 wherein the bat further comprises a resilient means disposed between the barrel and the core shaft, the resilient means for attenuating vibrations and for allowing the barrel to elastically deform when the barrel hits a ball.~~

19. ~~(Canceled) A bat for hitting a ball, the bat comprising:~~

~~—— a) a core shaft including a shaft length and a cross section,~~

~~—— b) a barrel for being connected to the shaft, the barrel including a portion that provides maximum bat performance, and~~

~~—— c) a connecting means for connecting the barrel to the shaft, said connecting means having a resilient stiffness,~~

~~wherein the barrel portion having the maximum bat performance is in dependence on the stiffness of the connecting means.~~

20. ~~(Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 19 wherein the resilient means is selected from the group consisting of foam, springs, rings, toroids and air bags.~~

21. ~~(Canceled) A tubular bat for hitting a ball, the bat having a length and a ball striking surface and further comprising:~~

~~a) a shaft including a handle portion for gripping the bat, the shaft extending for substantially the full length of the bat;~~

~~b) a batting portion extending along a portion of the shaft beyond the handle portion, and~~

~~c) resilient means deployed along the batting portion of the bat to provide said ball striking surface.~~

22. ~~(Canceled) A bat as claimed in claim 21 wherein the resilient means comprises multiple, individual, resilient means which are each toroidal in shape.~~

23. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first connecting structure extends laterally from the core shaft for directly connecting the proximal portion of the barrel to the core shaft.

24. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first connecting structure and the second connecting structure respectively are elastically resilient flexible structures.

25. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 24 wherein the first and second connecting structures each comprise a pleated shape.

26. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 23 wherein the barrel has a distal barrel end, further comprising an end cap disposed at the distal barrel end and wherein the core shaft extends to and connects with the end cap.

27. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 26 wherein the second connecting structure serves as the end cap.

28. (New) A bat as claimed in claim 23 wherein the core shaft further includes a proximal shaft end beginning the handle portion and a distal end to the handle portion positioned intermediate the shaft end and the proximal end of the barrel, the bat further comprising a tapered section disposed between the distal end of the handle portion and the proximal end of the barrel.